

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
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O P 110750Z JAN 78  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 157  
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION USNATO  
AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL  
AMCONSUL IZMIR  
USCINCEUR  
USDOCOSOUTH  
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 0225

USEEC

USOECD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR  
SUBJECT: GREEK REACTION TO ECEVIT'S STATEMENTS ON  
CYPRUS AND AEGEAN

REF: ATHENS 132 (DTG 051528Z JAN 78)

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1. TURKSIH NEWSPAPER READERS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS HAVE SEEN  
A WIDE RANGE OF REPORTS OF GREEK REACTION TO PRIMIN ECEVIT'S  
DECLARATIONS OF INTENT TO PUSH FOR SETTLING THE CYPRUS AND  
AEGEAN PROBLEMS. FIRST THERE WERE REPORTS OF GREEK DISPARAGEMENT  
OF ECEVIT AND HIS EFFORT, (WIDE CIRCULATION DAILY GUNAYDIN  
HEADLINED THAT "ECEVIT'S STATEMENTS ON CYPRUS HAVE CREATED  
UNEASE IN ATHENS", "THE GREEK PRESS HAS COME OUT AGAINST AN

ECEVIT-CARAMANLIS SUMMIT", AND "AN ANTI-ECEVIT CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN OPENED IN GHE GREEK PRESS".) ON JANUARY 11, SEVERAL PAPERS PICKED UP THE AP STORY THAT GREEK PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS HAD WELCOMED ECEVIT'S STATEMENTS, AND CONSERVATIVE TERCUMAN FRONT-PAGED A REPORT THAT THE GREEK PRIME MINISTER HAD SENT CONGRATULATIONS TO HIS NEW TURKISH COUNTERPART.

2. COMMENT: WHATEVER THE GREEK OPINION OF TURKEY'S NEW PRIME MINISTER, THE TURKS HAVE A HIGH REGARD FOR CARAMANLIS. WHILE THEY HAD HOPED HE COULD DO MORE TO SETTLE THEIR QUARRELS IN THE LAST THREE YEARS, THEY STILL HAVE FAITH THAT HE, AS CO-ARCHITECT WITH MENDERES OF THE 1959 CYPRUS SETTLEMENT, COULD PROVIDE THE STATEMANSHIP REQUIRED FOR RESOLVING PRESENT PROBLEMS. IT WOULD BE GREAT LOSS IF THAT CONFIDENCE WERE DESTROYED.

3. SINCE MUCH OF THE COMPETITION BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY-- AT LEAST AS WE SEE IT--CONSISTS OF PLAYING TO FOREIGN AUDIENCES, IT MIGHT BE NOTED THAT ECEVIT'S REENTRY MAY CHANGE THE TERMS OF COMPETITION. IN ECEVIT, TURKEY HAS A FIRST-RATE SPOKESMAN WHO FURTHERMORE IS OBVIOUSLY DETERMINED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT TURKEY'S IMAGE PROBLEM AND TO CONTEST GREECE'S APPARENT LEAD IN INTERNATIONAL SYMPATHY. WE BELIEVE THAT ECEVIT IN HIS EFFORTS ON CYPRUS AND THE AEGEAN HAS A HIGHER AIM THAN SIMPLY IMPROVING TURKEY'S PUBLIC RELATIONS POSITION VIS-A-VIS GREECE.  
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HOWEVER, CONTINUED GOG DISPARAGEMENT OF HIS EFFORTS COULD EASILY CAUSE HIM TO LOWER HIS AIM. WE SUSPECT HE WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL, BUT SUCCESS ON THAT LEVEL, WHILE EMOTIONALLY SATISFYING FOR TURKS, WOULD NOT BRING THE PROBLEMS OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ANY CLOSER TO SOLUTION AND MIGHT WELL AGGRAVATE PRESENT TENSIONS.  
SPIERS

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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